

Environmental Justice Community Engagement Initiatives: A Timeline

2022

The City of Redwood City started to evaluate alternatives to our existing Caltrain at-grade crossings to improve safety and traffic congestion. Nuestra Casa promotoras fielded 300 surveys of community members to facilitate community engagement about the options and provide valuable feedback to the process. More information about this project is available [here](#).

2022

San Mateo County is considering a new pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the Caltrain tracks in North Fair Oaks. To inform its study, the County contracted with Nuestra Casa's outreach team to inform and gather input from community members about the proposed improvements. Nuestra Casa promotoras and staff members hosted five pop-up events to meaningfully engage with community members.

2022

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is a collaboration of local, state, and federal organizations that work to restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. One of their projects includes supporting the Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP). The Regional Water Needs Assessment Report summarizes the individual needs assessments conducted by DACTIP partners between 2017 and 2021 as well as a synthesis of findings and recommendations. Nuestra Casa participated in the DACTIP program and conducted surveys and focus groups to inform the needs assessment. The results of our work are on pages 223-236 of the report, which is available [here](#). Under this initiative, our staff members helped over 50 East Palo Alto residents test their drinking water and reviewed the results with them.

2021

Bay Adapt partnered with Nuestra Casa and Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) to conduct four community focus groups in East Palo Alto. Residents expressed how concerned they are about what rising sea level will mean for their communities, and that they want to know more about what they can do.

2020

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the lead agency on the Dumbarton Bridge Remediation project, partnered with Nuestra Casa to conduct community engagement work to inform the project. Nuestra Casa staff members facilitated workshops in English and Spanish about sea-level rise and its impact on the community. We also delivered a similar set of materials to 55 parents and 25 adolescents as part of our popular Parent Academy workshop. Through this process, participants built their environmental understanding incrementally as a cohort during the multi-week sessions. Nuestra Casa collected truly authentic community feedback for the MTC, including: (1) residents want to protect their homes and neighborhoods from flooding and therefore support raising levees; and (2) resident concerns about moving the PG&E substation.



Nuestra Casa

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2018

Because of Nuestra Casa's deep roots in the local Spanish-speaking community, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) tapped us to help translate and field surveys about water quality in East Palo Alto. Through surveys, focus groups, and listening sessions, Nuestra Casa identified residents' top concerns about water: unsafe drinking water, bad taste, and poor infrastructure. We learned that 75 percent of community members who were surveyed buy water for drinking and cooking, which is not helpful to the environment or their wallets. A common refrain during listening sessions was about poor water quality. People shared that the water is brown, smells terrible, and causes health issues, including rashes, skin and eye burns, and hair loss. They also worried about the environmental effects of buying bottled water.



Nuestra Casa